

interest, and I am grateful to all of you for the effort you have made and are making to accomplish our purpose. The General Assembly at its session earlier this year passed legislation providing for a referendum on the question of calling a constitutional convention. This question will be decided by the voters of our State when they go to the polls in the Primary Election next September 13.

The purpose of this "workshop", which has been called the "opening gun in the campaign to get out the vote" on this referendum, is to discuss the progress made up to now in making the arrangements for the Convention next year and to talk about the need for such a constitutional revision and its importance to the people of Maryland. We have here today a splendid array of intelligence, wisdom and experience, and with this as a foundation there is every reason for us to feel optimistic about our chances of success. But we must not let down our guard—we must not fall victim to apathy. Our goal is not just voter approval of the question on referendum; we want to see a tremendous turnout at the polls to indicate overwhelming endorsement of the proposition.

In a special message to the General Assembly this year, I spoke of three steps which I considered to be essential in preparing the government of our State for tasks of the future. The Legislature, I pointed out, had undergone a reapportionment of the membership of its two houses—a development of far-reaching consequences for the State and its government. The second step was the matter I was proposing to the General Assembly at the time—an updating and modernization of the administrative organization of State government which carries out public policy and administers a vast range of public services. This movement for a reorganization of the executive branch has been started and is well underway. The third step I cited as essential to the preparation of the State government to carry on its obligation in a changed, and ever-changing, society is the work we are engaged in here today—the plan to achieve a complete revision of the basic law of our State.

In another speech I made after the session had ended, I spoke of what I considered to be my legacy to the people of Maryland, and I mentioned again these three steps. This is what I said about a new constitution:

"Before any appreciable progress can be made in the modernization of the government, steps must be taken to replace the present cluttered and time-worn State Constitution with an up-to-date one."